

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-091751
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
CAMANO HILLS WATER)	
COMPANY,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On November 9, 2009, Camano Hills Water Company, (Camano Hills or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-1, designated as First Revision Sheet 20 Canceling Original Sheet No 20, First Revision Sheet 22 Canceling Original Sheet 22, First Revision Sheet 22.1 Canceling Original Sheet No 22.1, First Revision Sheet 23 Canceling Original Sheet No 23 and adding Original Sheet 24. The stated effective date is January 1, 2010. The proposed rates are prompted by increased costs in all areas of business operations, such as fuel, insurance, electrical power, laboratory fees and chemicals used for water treatment. Recent upgrades and capital improvements contribute to the increased costs of providing water service.

- 2 In this filing, Camano Hills would increase charges and rates for service that would generate approximately \$40,150 (41 percent) in additional annual revenue. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Camano Hills has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates,

regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including water companies.

[RCW 80.01.040](#), *RCW 80.04*, *RCW 80.08*, *RCW 80.12*, *RCW 80.16* and *RCW 80.28*.

- 4 (2) Camano Hills is a water company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 23, 2009.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions Camano Hills filed on November 9, 2009, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Camano Hills, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Camano Hills has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 8 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Camano Hills' books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Camano Hills' property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Camano Hills' operations.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Camano Hills bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 10 (8) Camano Hills may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revisions Camano Hills Water Company filed on November 9, 2009, are suspended.

- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) Camano Hills Water Company must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this
docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 14 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Camano Hills Water
Company's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as
described above.
- 15 (5) Camano Hills Water Company shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and
allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 23, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner